

# Across the Antarctic Circle

Aboard *Greg Mortimer* | 22 February – 5 March 2026





# Across the Antarctic Circle

22 February – 5 March 2026

# Ushuaia, Embarkation Day

DAY 1 | Sunday 22 February 2026

**Latitude:**  
54°53.7' S

**Longitude:**  
67°38.6' W

**Course:**  
Alongside  
**Speed:**  
15 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
13 knots NWN

**Barometer:**  
1017 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
14°C

Here we are in the picturesque town of Ushuaia, 'the end of the world.' Our day began with breakfast at the hotel, overlooking the Beagle Channel and the pier, where the beautiful *Greg Mortimer* was already alongside, preparing to welcome us aboard.

Early morning, we set out from Ushuaia and crossed the southernmost foothills of the Andes toward Lake Fagnano, surrounded by forests and dramatic mountain views. After enjoying the scenery and taking photos, we continued to Las Cotorras, a rustic lodge where we savoured a traditional Argentinian BBQ lunch. Great food, warm hospitality, and the wild beauty of Tierra del Fuego made for a perfect start to our adventure.

Later, we headed to the pier and finally stood before the *Greg Mortimer*. Members of the Expedition Team, including photographer Fiona, Onboard Expedition Manager Lelia and Assistant Expedition Leader Rune greeted us warmly, checked us in, and took a photo for the expedition board. An embarkation buffet awaited us in the Elephant Island Bar, and the Hotel Team guided us to our cabins, our home away from home.

Soon after, Expedition Leader Mario welcomed everyone in the lecture theatre, sharing a short video featuring Greg Mortimer himself. He spoke about the innovative X-Bow design and Aurora's spirit of adventure. Mario then outlined what to expect in the coming days, before introducing our multi-skilled Expedition Team, full of enthusiasm for the journey ahead.



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Lelia and Hotel Director Oliver explained life on board, and Dr. Javier gave a short briefing on staying healthy during the voyage.

After returning to the ship and completing the mandatory safety drill, we gathered in the dining room for a delicious dinner prepared by our talented galley team and served by our ever-friendly restaurant staff. The perfect way to end a full and unforgettable day.

Altogether, we are 77 Expeditioners from around the world, joined by 104 crew members and 20 Expedition Team members ready to share their knowledge.

After many hours of travel, it's time to relax, breathe in the sea air, and look forward to the adventures ahead.







# Drake Passage

DAY 2 | Monday 23 February 2026

**Latitude:**

56°08.5' S

**Longitude:**

64°54.0' W

**Course:**

176°

**Speed:**

10.6 knots

**Wind Speed:**

10 knots W

**Barometer:**

1010 hPa

**Air Temp:**

8°C

After a delicious buffet breakfast there was time to enjoy the ocean scene, sup a second cup of coffee, or to test out one's sea legs around the ship before Hannah's presentation 'Discovering Antarctica'. Here we learnt when, who, why and what was involved in proving the existence of Terra Australis Incognita; the Unknown Southern Land, from Aristotle and his chums philosophising about it in 350 BCE, to the first sightings and footsteps, through the heroic age and then the Antarctic Treaty creating a continent purely for peace and for science. What a wonderful place we are heading for!

Divers and snorkellers had their briefings before a plentiful and tasty buffet lunch and then Stas educated us on how to best use our cameras in the polar environment.

More education followed with some hands-on Citizen Science out on deck 7 with a healthy dose of fresh air. Gaby led a cloud survey so we could distinguish our cumulus from our

strata, and then Kyle taught us about the beautiful black-browed albatross and the largest living birds, the snowy albatrosses that were following the ship. He then gave a talk on the Seabirds of the Southern Ocean where we could see just how large the snowy's 3.5 metre wingspan really was and how they lock their wings to soar effortlessly using the wind.

Solo travellers met for a drink and gathering with the E-Team before Captain's Welcome when we not only got to meet Captain Oleg, but also some of his officers and the heads of department in the hotel team. We raised a glass to toast our onward journey as the anticipation continues to build for our adventure ahead. Expedition Leader Isabelle outlined our plans for tomorrow, Stas told us how we could share our photos, and Kyle and Madi introduced more educational opportunities available at daily recaps, the education board and wildlife list, and an outline of all the Citizen Science projects we hope to get involved in on this trip.







# Drake Passage

DAY 3 | Tuesday 24 February 2026

**Latitude:**  
60°54.4' S

**Longitude:**  
63°53.7' W

**Course:**  
175°

**Speed:**  
12.5 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
24 knots NW

**Barometer:**  
1011 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
3°C

Today, we were making our way down to Antarctica through the legendary Drake Passage aboard our ship, the *Greg Mortimer*. Though land is not yet in sight, the anticipation is here. The sea has calmed down after yesterday's swells, gifting us a smoother ride.

After a tasty breakfast, our morning continued with important preparatory sessions. First up was the IAATO briefing, an introduction to the Antarctic Treaty and the environmental and safety protocols we must follow. The guidance was thorough, respectful of the fragile environment, and essential for ensuring our landings and wildlife encounters are conducted responsibly.

Following that, we had a focused safety briefing detailing how our operations will proceed once we start making landings and Zodiac cruises. After the briefings, we continued with biosecurity procedures to clean our gear and clothes so as not to introduce any foreign seeds to Antarctica.



In the afternoon, we attended lectures from our Expedition Team. Madi delivered a fascinating whale lecture on their biology, behaviour, migratory patterns, and the clues to spotting different species. Later, Meli took the stage for an ice lecture, unraveling the science behind sea ice formation, glacier dynamics, and the dramatic beauty of Antarctic ice structures. Both talks were engaging and rich with information.

As the day ended, we gathered for our daily recap and briefing led by our Expedition Leader Isabelle. She provided us with the weather forecast and plans for tomorrow. Following her, the rest of the team shared a recap of the day.

Though the Antarctic continent remains just beyond the horizon, the excitement is here. Each of us feels informed, inspired, and eager for the moment when ice and snowy peaks finally come into view.





# Neko Harbour, Paradise Bay

DAY 4 | Wednesday 25 February 2026

**Latitude:**  
64°45.6' S

**Longitude:**  
62°52.1' W

**Course:**  
120°

**Speed:**  
6.3 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
7 knots SW

**Barometer:**  
1007 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
-2°C

Overnight the *Greg Mortimer* had transited between the major islands of the Palmer Archipelago and into the heart of the Gerlache Strait. After two straight days of open ocean travel, the dim morning light revealed a misty, ice-draped dreamscape in all directions. And Expeditioners finally got their first glimpses of the seemingly infinite glaciers smothering the bedrock of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Despite a breezy forecast, we cruised over glassy waters into the well-protected Andvord Bay, weaving past abundant icebergs, a few lounging fur seals, and numerous humpback whales grazing liquid pastures. Our morning destination was a glacial amphitheatre called Neko Harbour, home to over a thousand nesting Gentoo penguins.

Our initiation to Zodiac-based operations and activities was a resounding success. This first landing site was not only an official continental landing, but it treated us all to as visceral a penguin experience as one could hope for. Who might have guessed their first steps taken upon the Antarctic mainland would require carefully trodding around prone penguins?

Literal crowds of these enigmatic avians welcomed us on the water ('rafts') and onshore ('waddles'); many of them likely juveniles recently fledged. While tolerating the odor of perennial-thawed guano, we admired the penguin highways up to their scenic rookery. And amongst a graveyard of bergy-bits, we listened to the thundering of glacial-calvings and took-in a surreal panorama mirrored abstractly by the still, ice-chalked waters of the fjord.



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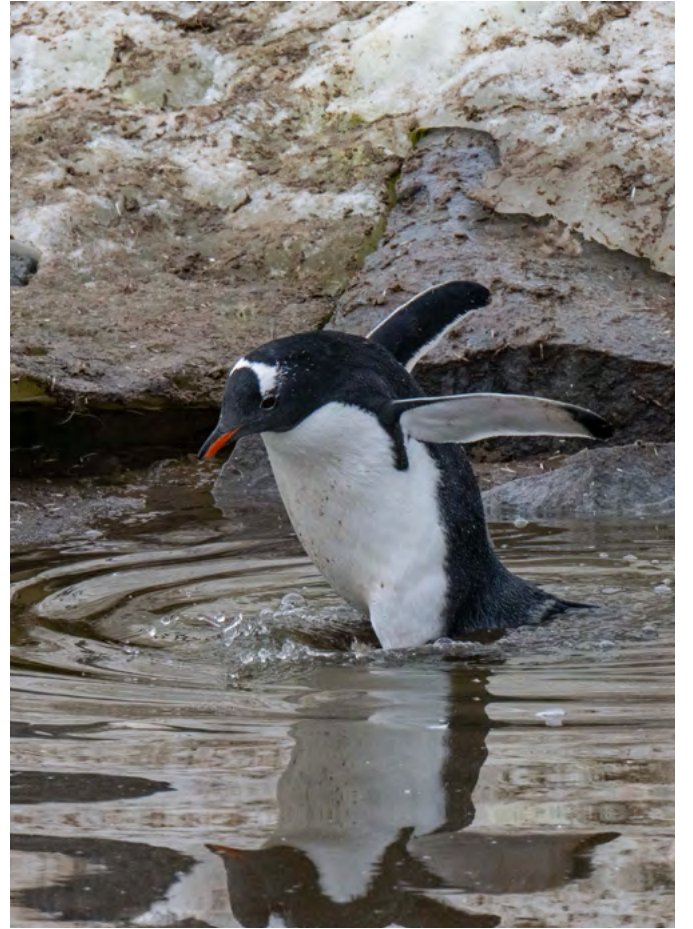
**Wind Speed:**  
7 knots SW

**Barometer:**  
1007 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
-2°C

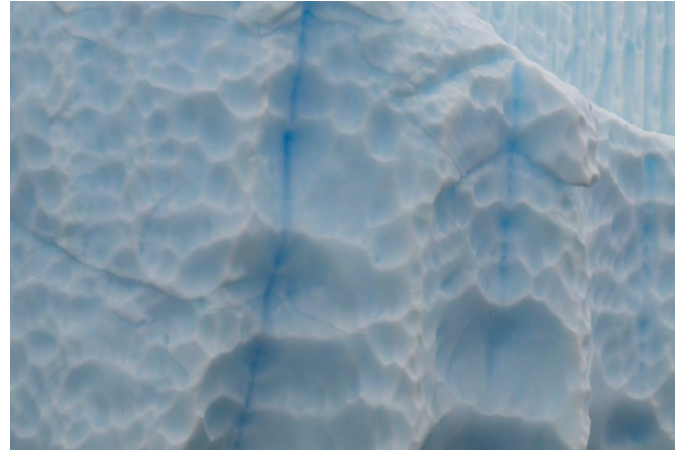
We barely had time to digest lunch before our afternoon operation commenced within the equally breathtaking Paradise Bay. Braving a steady, cold drizzle, we more deftly disembarked the ship and Zodiac-cruised within this famously stunning passage. Our monochrome surroundings were briefly interrupted by the colourful red huts of Argentina's Almirante Brown Research Station, as well as steep cliffs speckled with green mosses, orange lichen, and even some patches of teal malachite.











# Antarctic Circle, Lallemand Fjord

DAY 5 | Thursday 26 February 2026

**Latitude:**  
66°11.9' S

**Longitude:**  
66°29.7' W

**Course:**  
214°

**Wind Speed:**  
20 knots NE

**Barometer:**  
1002 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
-1°C

After a glorious first day in Antarctica, we awoke to a ship that was rocking and rolling as it made its southward passage toward our ultimate destination for the morning: the Antarctic Circle. Following a delightful late breakfast, we gathered in the lecture room for a talk with Kyle on everyone's favorite seabird: the humble penguin. Soon after the lecture completed, we were invited up to the Observation Lounge on deck 8 to celebrate our upcoming crossing of the Antarctic Circle.

In true Antarctic conditions, we crossed the circle, surrounded by friends and family, alike. With smiles all around, the rain and wind couldn't deter us from celebrating an accomplishment that so many of us have dreamed about for our whole lives.

With some yummy hot chocolate in our bellies, we headed back inside for a lovely lunch as we sailed ever southward toward our next destination. Over the course of lunch, the winds and

waves picked up in intensity, especially as we got closer to our afternoon destination of Detaille Island. The Expedition Team and the Captain tried hard to get us off the ship and onto shore at this historic island, but Antarctica had something different in mind for us for the afternoon.

Thankfully, our Expedition Team always has something else up their sleeves, and we headed southward into Lallemand Fjord. Here, we found calmer winds, and an abundance of ice and whales for us to enjoy. We loaded up into the Zodiacs and ventured out for a lovely Zodiac cruise under an atmospheric Antarctic sky. We enjoyed ample whale sightings and plentiful icebergs and even had a spot of snowfall to cap off the afternoon.

We had recap and briefing for tomorrow's plans. Then, it was time for a drink at the bar to share stories among friends before nipping off to bed to get some rest before tomorrow's adventures. What a day it was south of the Antarctic Circle!







# Prospect Point, Yalour Island

DAY 6 | Friday 27 February 2026

**Latitude:**

65°56.4' S

**Longitude:**

65°22.4' W

**Speed:**

11.3 knots

**Wind Speed:**

0 knots

**Barometer:**

1003 hPa

**Air Temp:**

1°C

Waking up at the leisurely time of 5:45 am to Isabelle's voice was something many of us were incredibly excited for. So with eyes filled with sleep and mostly empty stomachs we made our way out on Zodiacs for an early morning landing at Prospect Point.

The Expedition Team greeted us on the rocky shoreline with big smiles as we landed for an exciting morning. On shore we saw our first Adélie penguins whose curious expressions and bulging eyes instantly made us fall in love with them. We wandered along the shoreline littered with the remains of seals which had long since passed away and all that remained were skins and well preserved bones. The sound of glaciers carving and icebergs breaking gave a stunning backdrop while we watched the morning flight of birds begin with Antarctic terns, Shags, and several South Polar Skuas. And all of this before breakfast.

After breakfast and an early nap for some we were offered the opportunity to learn more about the remarkable geology of the Antarctic continent and delve deeper into the secrets of the impressive landscape we've walked.

Our late lunch was quickly followed by another landing in the afternoon at the Yalour Islands backdropped by a stunning landscape of mountains and glaciers. With the help of our Expedition Team disembarking the Zodiacs at the island in rough conditions we were able to explore the site with views of over a hundred moulting Adélie penguins and a few Antarctic Fur Seals that stood regally with the sun as a backdrop.

Yes the Sun! It was a gorgeous afternoon in which many overdressed but none complained that the sun had returned and brought with it some incredible vistas. But a landing



# Prospect Point, Yalour Island

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**Wind Speed:**  
0 knots

**Barometer:**  
1003 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
1°C

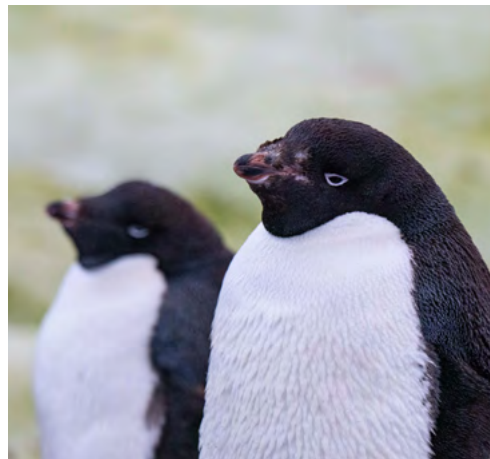
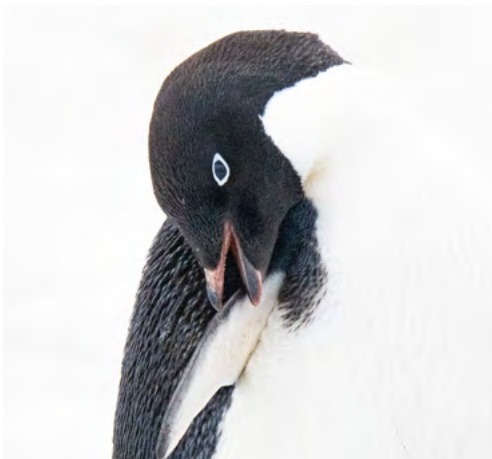
was not the only activity because a Zodiac cruise revealed impressive icebergs trapped in the shallows and for some amazing up close looks at more Humpback whales.

With recap postponed for the evening we were able to get on deck and revel in the impressive scale of the Lemaire channel whose high mountaintops capped with glaciers made us feel dwarfed yet again by the scenery. An incredible day with many highlights that only continues to build our anticipation for what is to come.

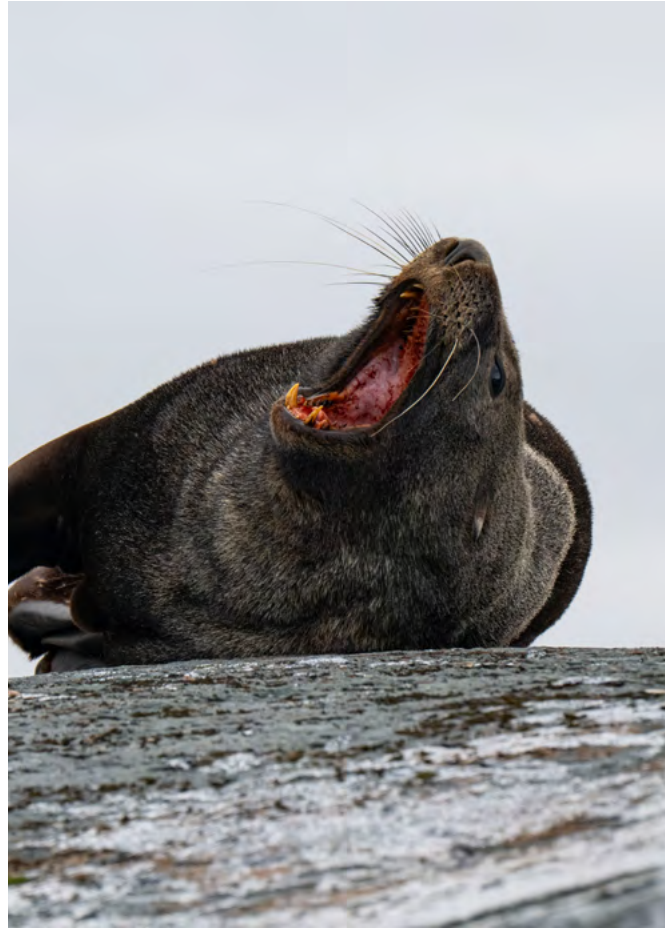














# Recess Cove, Enterprise Island

DAY 7 | Saturday 28 February 2026

**Latitude:**  
64°28.6' S

**Longitude:**  
62°02.1' W

**Course:**  
82°

**Wind Speed:**  
9 knots E

**Barometer:**  
1010 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
0°C

The day started early with a wake-up call from Isabelle letting us know we were approaching Recess Cove, and that there were whales all around the ship. That was enough to get most of us out of bed quickly. Sure enough, as we looked outside, we could see blows in every direction.

After breakfast, we headed out to explore another amazing site. It was raining steadily, and the cold started tingling our fingertips, but no one seemed to mind, it's the price you have to pay to be in such a beautiful place. The whales were busy feeding, surfacing again and again around our Zodiacs. At times we didn't know where to look because there was activity on all sides. We managed to get on land where we could continue enjoying the glaciers and icebergs, this time surrounded by penguins and fur seals. Even soaked and slightly chilled, we all agreed it was worth it.

Back on the ship, most of us had just started warming up when another announcement came: polar plunge time! That meant straight back to the mudroom, but this time to jump into the icy Antarctic water. There was a lot of nervous laughter and dancing as people debated whether they were really going to do this. In the end, many lined up anyway, questioning their sanity. The jump into the water was exactly as cold as you'd imagine: shocking, quick, and over before you could think too much about it. The smiles afterward said it all. No regrets.

After lunch, with whales still visible as we repositioned, we headed out again at Enterprise Island. Our first stop was Foyen Harbour to see the wreck of the *Guvernøren*. Standing there, looking at what remains of the old whaling ship while learning about the history of the industry in the area, gave us plenty to think about.



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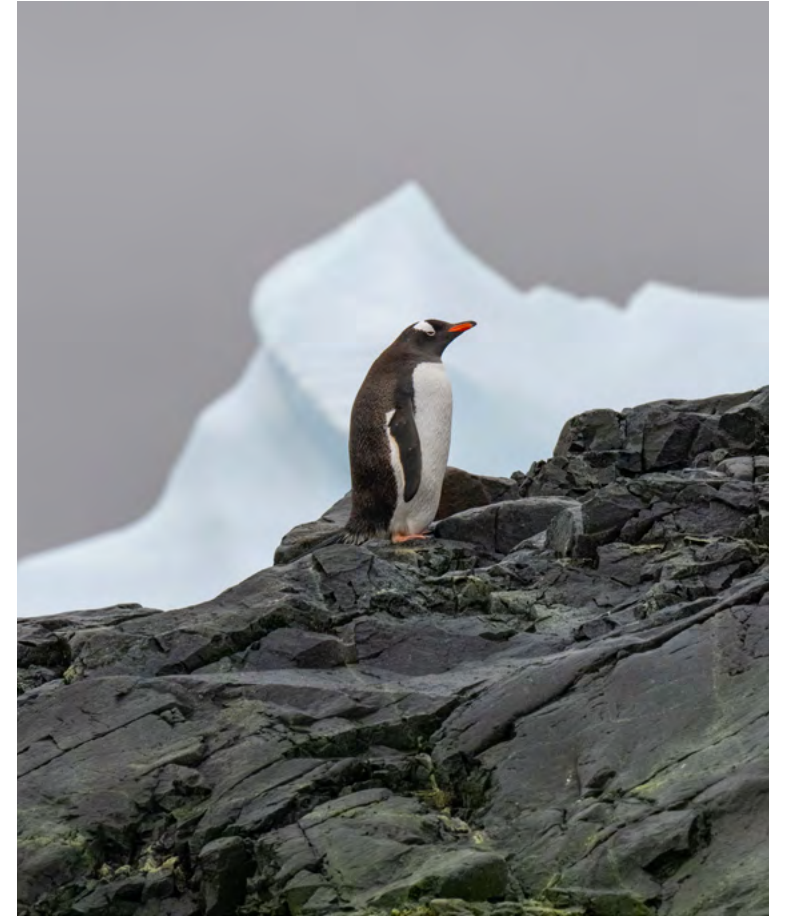
**Air Temp:**  
0°C

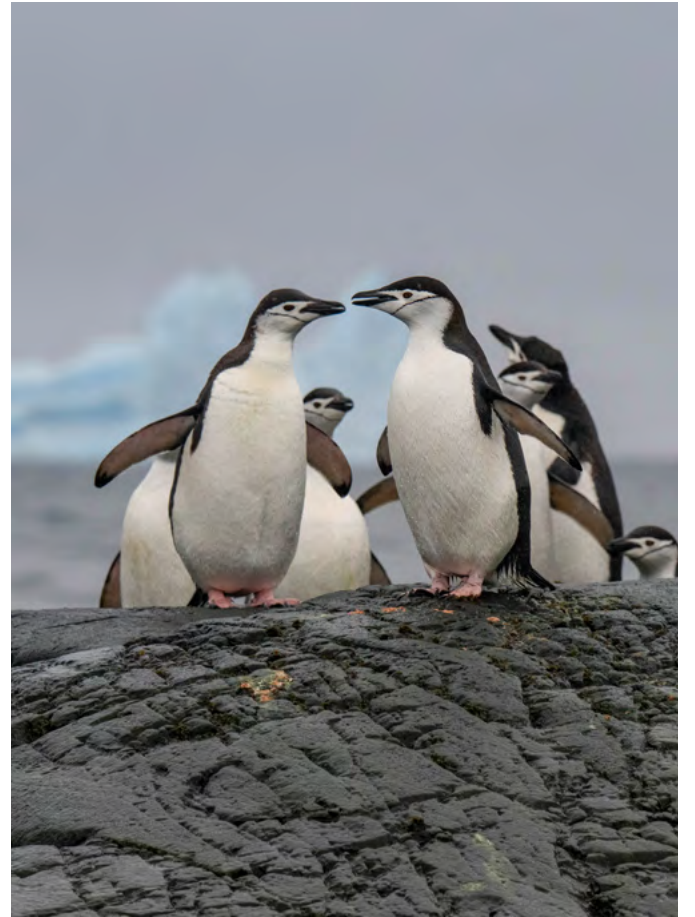
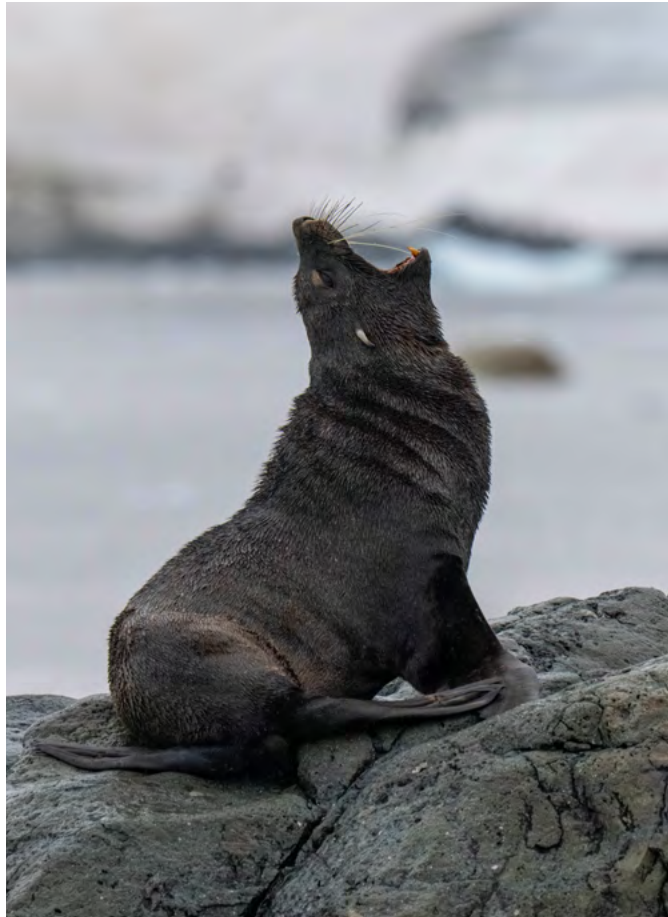
We continued cruising and, once again, couldn't go far without spotting more whales. We also saw fur seals hauled out along the shore and Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins waddling on slippery rocks.

Back on board, recap flowed straight into dinner, and somehow dinner turned into a full-ship karaoke session led by the crew. It was the perfect ending to another memorable day in Antarctica, and we're more than ready to see what tomorrow brings.











# Cierva Cove, Hydrurga Rocks

DAY 8 | Sunday 1 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
64°10.3' S

**Longitude:**  
61°17.7' W

**Course:**  
47°

**Wind Speed:**  
14 knots NE

**Barometer:**  
1006 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
0°C

We woke up to a perfectly calm sea as we arrived in Cierva Cove, and we could hardly believe our luck. The water lay flat and glassy around us, reflecting the most beautiful icebergs in every shade of blue and white. We explored both from the deck and from our Zodiacs, drifting quietly among sculpted ice while gentoo penguins porpoised through the water and chinstrap penguins lined the shores like well-dressed little gentlemen at a very formal gathering.

During our morning Zodiac cruise, we all had different wildlife experiences. Some of us were lucky enough to encounter humpback whales up close, watching their powerful backs roll through the calm sea. Meanwhile, a few kayakers had a heart-racing moment with a curious leopard seal that greeted them with unmistakable interest, close enough for comfort, but thankfully only interested in a good look. It reminds us that in Antarctica, every outing writes its own story.

And then came the highlight for many of us: one particularly playful Minke whale that decided to make our morning unforgettable. It swam around the kayakers and Zodiacs, surfacing again and again as if personally greeting each of us. We laughed and waved; it felt less like wildlife watching and more like being welcomed by the true locals of Antarctica.

As we continued our journey toward Hydrurga Rocks, light snow began drifting down around us. A magical, almost cinematic touch to an already perfect morning.

In the afternoon we landed on the beach at Hydrurga, surrounded by curious fur seals, several relaxed Weddell seals, and hundreds of noisy chinstrap penguins. The terrain proved slightly challenging, thanks to generous amounts of penguin guano that kept us on our toes. We returned to the ship tired and incredibly happy, just in time to enjoy an indoor BBQ. What a fantastic day filled with wildlife, laughter, and unforgettable Antarctic memories.











# Walker Bay, Hall Peninsula

DAY 9 | Monday 2 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
62°46.1' S

**Longitude:**  
60°46.8' W

**Course:**  
46°

**Wind Speed:**  
10 knots NW

**Barometer:**  
1007 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
1°C

Opening our cabin curtains this morning, we are greeted by a blue sky and sunshine! We have arrived at the beautiful South Shetland Islands. More specifically, Walker Bay of Livingston Island.

We prepare for our final day of landings; it's going to be a busy day. Once we are on board the Zodiac, we get our first real panorama of the bay. Expansive glaciers off to our left, and Hannah Point off to our right, we make our way ashore. The ridgeline arises behind the black sand beach, forming a dramatic backdrop to the stage where gentoos, chinstraps, fur seals, elephant seals, skua, and giant petrel, performed.

Liverpool Beach also boasts a spectacular display of whale bones, fossilised plants and petrified wood. The paddlers returned with a sighting of a hungry leopard seal, catching

a chinstrap penguin for breakfast. It appears to be a bad day to be a chinstrap penguin, as at the northern end of the beach, a juvenile southern giant petrel, is also displaying the nature of the food chain. At the southern end of the beach, the atmosphere is a lot calmer. We tip-toe around a group of enormous, sleeping elephant seals. The silence broken only by their frequent sneezing, snorting and grunting.

Back on board for lunch, we catch up with our friends, as the bridge team manoeuvre the vessel to our next destination. Isabelle's favourite location; Snow Island. Here, we are treated to a lovely little island, covered in moss, lichens, Antarctic hairgrass. Over the enchanting rocky pathway, dozens of elephant seals and fur seals, line the shore. All sunbathing, whilst the gentoos scurry around them. The chinstraps in the distance continue their loud chatter.



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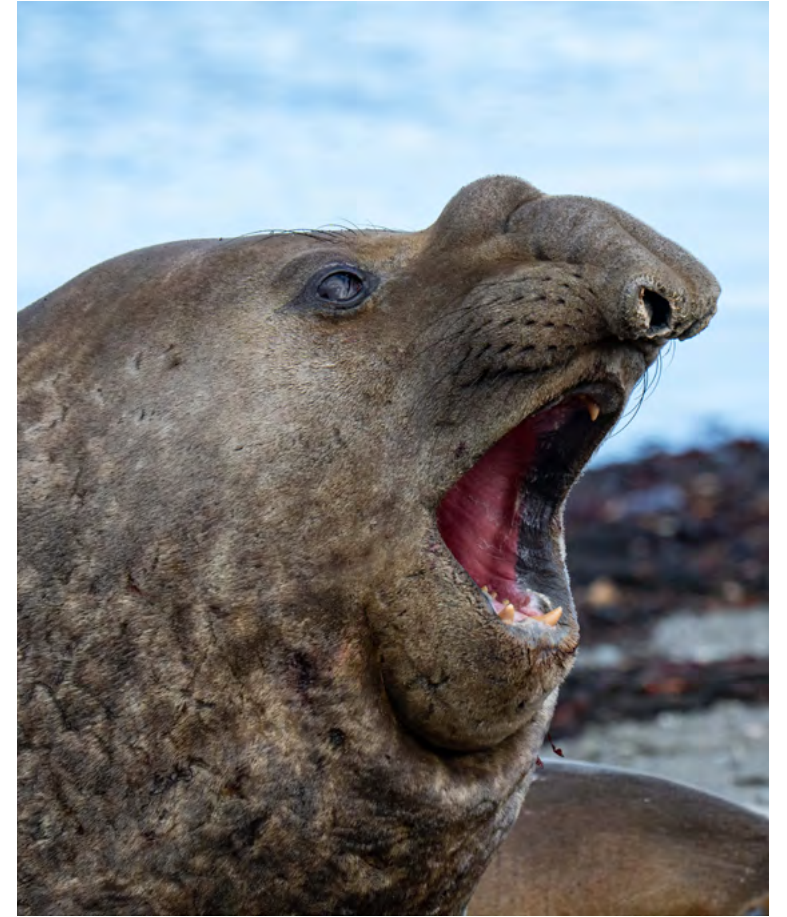
Our last day of operations has been blessed by the sun, elephant seals, and chinstrap penguin sacrifice. There is no better way to wrap it all up, than the expert recaps in the evening. Meli went into detail about the research huts we saw on our trip, Katia took us on a journey through the life of an elephant seal, Matt treated us to his Antarctic 'Plant Barn' proposition, and Hannah offered insights to the correct orientation of a reindeer skin sleeping bag. Now, off to dinner with our new friends.











# Drake Passage

DAY 10 | Tuesday 3 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
60°12.9' S

**Longitude:**  
63°29.3' W

**Course:**  
342°

**Speed:**  
13.9 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
24 knots NE

**Barometer:**  
1011 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
0°C

Our first morning at sea on our northward journey back to Ushuaia found the good ship, the *Greg Mortimer* rolling gently in the growing seas of the Drake Passage.

The winds were relatively calm in the morning, so we enjoyed a casual breakfast in the restaurant served up by our talented galley team.

Following breakfast, many of us had the opportunity to visit the ship's navigational bridge, where we learned all about the various equipment required to sail a vessel to the remote waters of the Antarctic.

The bridge tours were followed by a book onboard session with Nicole, which gave us a chance to learn more about the many other voyages and destinations that Aurora has to offer.

Just before lunch, Hannah gave an excellent lecture on the history of women in the Antarctic. It was a fun and engaging talk that shone a bright light on the many women who have left their mark on the continent but have mostly been overlooked by the history books.

In the afternoon, we had more activities on board, including a lecture on the seals of Antarctica with Madi and a Citizen Science session on the outer decks. Our onboard citizen scientists did a cloud and bird survey to help contribute to our scientific knowledge of the region.

Last but not least for the afternoon was a talk with Hannah, Meli, and Leo about the time that they each spent living and working at a number of Antarctic research stations. The trio regaled us with tales of life on the ice and the hard work and



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**Barometer:**  
1011 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
0°C

extensive preparation that's required to do scientific research on the White Continent.

This was followed by our final recap and briefing of the voyage. Our final recap was one to remember with Kyle recounting the life story of his great-great uncle (and Antarctic exploration hero) Sir Hubert Wilkins and Hannah leading us in a rollicking rendition of her song about Sir Ernest Shackleton.

To round off the day, we had a delectable dinner among friends, both new and old. In the late evening, Leo also gave a talk on the mummified seals that he researched in the Weddell Sea. And with all that incredible knowledge from a lecture-filled day, we headed off to bed to get some rest before tomorrow's activities.

● Position at 0800



# Drake Passage, Beagle Channel

DAY 11 | Wednesday 4 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
60°12.9' S

**Longitude:**  
63°29.3' W

**Course:**  
342°

**Speed:**  
3.4 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
24 knots NE

**Barometer:**  
1011 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
0°C

The sun rose over a much calmer sea as we began our day aboard the *Greg Mortimer*. There's something truly special about a morning where the seas decide to behave; the waters were so calm you'd hardly believe we were just around the corner of the wild waters of Cape Horn. We kicked things off with a relaxed breakfast, sipping coffee and fueling up for a day packed with stories.

We started the morning with the disembarkation briefing by Nicole...and yes, although it is sad to leave, it is important to make sure that everyone gets to their next destination, where the wind takes them to.

By mid-morning, we gathered in the lecture room for a presentation by Mason and Andy. The two researchers that we've picked up from the US Palmer Station only a couple

of days ago, shared some of their research down here in the white continent. They told us about the tagging, sampling and different studies that they were doing on the whales around the area.

After a delicious lunch, Madi and team hosted a Wildlife Hour to wrap up the Citizen Science program that we've doing throughout the voyage, with some cool whale flukes photo id using the Happywhale project.

During the afternoon was also the time for the activities to have their farewells, so each of the kayak, paddle, snorkel and diving teams gathered to share their experience, go through some pictures and of course, a toast for a fantastic voyage. Later, Kyle and team presented the Aurora's Keep the Magic Alive session.



# Drake Passage, Beagle Channel

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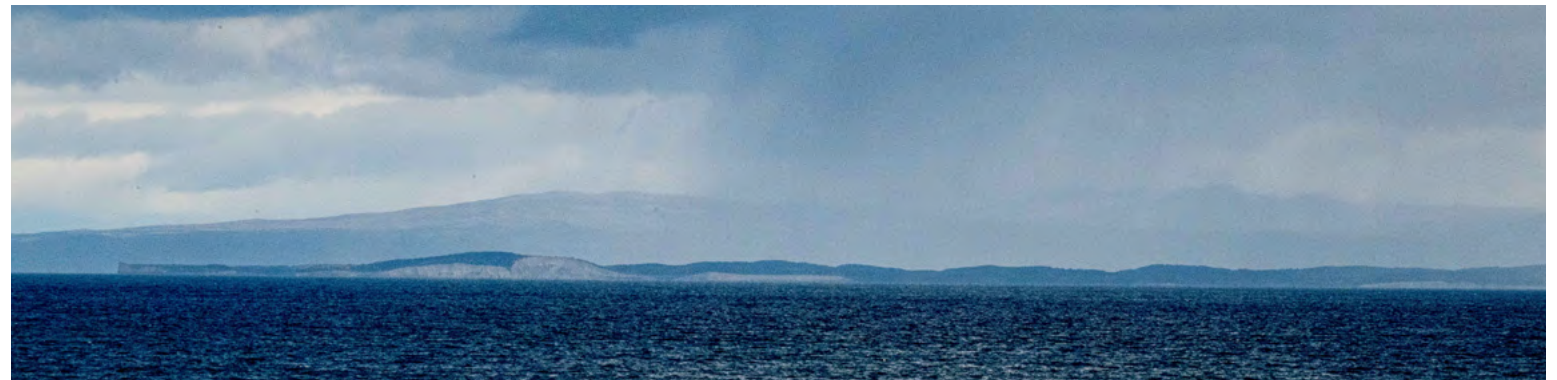
**Wind Speed:**  
24 knots NE

**Barometer:**  
1011 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
0°C

To lighten the mood before the evening, we had our Captain's cocktail hour, followed by the Captain's Farewell in the lecture theatre. Our amazing Expedition Leader Isabelle invited Captain Oleg for a final message after this once-in-a-lifetime adventure on the southern edge of the world. He and the senior Officers of the *Greg Mortimer* toasted with all of us for a well-completed expedition. There's a bittersweet feeling in the air as we chart our course toward the Beagle Channel and Ushuaia, soaking in these last moments of our unforgettable journey.

● Position at 0800





# Ushuaia, Disembarkation Day

DAY 12 | Thursday 5 March 2026

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Course:

At anchor

Speed:

At anchor

Disembarkation at 0800.

Aurora Expeditions thanks you for joining us aboard *Greg Mortimer*. We hope to see you on the high seas again someday!

● Position at 0800

# BBQ





# Polar Plunge









# Citizen Science







# Kayaking Log

Guides: Tim Vanhoutteghem, Hodei Orueta, Gareth Wheeler, Matthew Barnes, Rob Barth

25 February 2026, AM: Neko Harbour – 2.8km

We dropped off a short way from the ship, just west of the landing site and promptly “rafted up” once we were all on the water. After a quick refresher on basic paddling technique and signals, we spread out for some tips and practice manoeuvring our watercraft. Everyone looking comfortable, we zigzagged through icebergs of varying size, then charged into increasingly thicker brash ice to test out the capability of our vessels. In a clearing, we found a few gentoos posing on an ice platform. Further on, we regrouped and just admired the serenity of our surroundings and the snap-crackle of ancient air escaping glacial ice. Leaving time for our first, and a continental, landing, we returned to the Zodiacs. A short and sweet “shake-down” kayak, and everyone passed their driver’s test with flying

colours.

25 February 2026, PM: Paradise Bay – 5km

The kayak trip began with a splash!! We went straight out into the bay to find a humpback whale to hang out with. Some of us ended up with a two for one whale experience!! We had a minke whale following a group of humpback whales around and the humpback whales followed us around. I’m sure everyone had a great time just seeing the whales. The other big attraction for the area is the Argentinian Base Brown and the cliffs to the south. We paddled along these next, checking out the blue-eyed shags on the rocks and a beautiful vein of copper oxide in the rocks. After that it was time for a quick tour of Skontorp Cove and one of the most spectacular glaciers in Antarctica before a fun ride back to the ship!! A very successful day of kayaking with many boxes already ticked.



Number of Kayakers: 13

Total Paddle Outings: 10

Total Distance Paddled: 38 km

Kayakers:

Rachelle Malaney

Michael Helling

Anita Helling

James Hockin

Shirley Hockin

Patrick McLaughlin

Leo Soibelzon

Anahi Soibelzon

Benjamin Soibelzon

Jennifer Werstler

Kylie Piper

Barry Jackson

Michael Torbert

### 27 February 2026, AM: Fish Islands – 1.6km

Kayaking in the Fish Islands was an early morning adventure, before breakfast. It was our first real chance to get up close to chinstrap penguins from the water. As we grew more comfortable in our kayaks, we got closer to the rocky shores, getting to watch the penguins moulting grumpily. Around us, the glaciated landscape of the Antarctic Peninsula stretched out, dramatic and beautiful in the morning light. Just when we thought it couldn't get better, a Weddell seal appeared, resting on a small bergy bit nearby. It was a phenomenal start to the day!

### 27 February 2026, PM: Yalour Islands – 3.84km

The Yalour Islands promised exploration, rocky islets, channels, Adélie penguins, stunning 'Alps-like' mountain tops, glaciers, brash ice

and icebergs...and delivered all of this in spades. A beautiful afternoon as we weaved in and out of narrow channels, circumnavigated small islands, paddled through brash ice, all the while basking in the warmth of the sunshine! What a great day to be out on the water.

### 28 February 2026, AM: Recess Cove – 5.5km

The paddle started with some crazy whale action!! We found a few humpback whales lunge feeding and moving around following the krill. After watching the show for a while and tagging along wherever they went we had another group of whales swim right past the group. You can never have enough whale encounters so we made our way along the coast exploring and finding more wildlife. There was a spit of rocks with fur seals and shags hanging out. I think the highlight for me was the ghost-faced iceberg though. To find all of

this we had actually paddled quite far from the ship so it was time for the ride back, a little damp but well worth it!

### 28 February 2026, PM: Enterprise Island – 3.7km

We put in in the protection of a small island called Pythia, just northeast of larger Enterprise Island, and worked along its lee side. We quickly found some lazy fur seals to observe and discussed how that brought the first human hunters long before the whaling era. Next, we crossed over into the cove of Foyn Harbour where the Guvernøren factory shipwreck rusts. We spent some time investigating the partially submerged hulk and its resident tern colony. Navigating back out, we found the remnant "water boats" across from a stunning, stocky glacier. Around the bend we crossed back to the north side of Pythia and into a grotto with lichen-lined cliffs and a shallow rock slot. On the exposed east side we

found a couple of chinstrap penguins, the first we've seen. Back in the south lee there were now a few more fur seals putting on a bit of a show. As we began a crossing southward, we paused to watch a lone humpback feeding out towards the ship. And then suddenly, a small calf popped up right in front of us! When it had seemed to have left us, we paddled over to a shag colony, then back to the whale calf, which had returned to the same spot. How great to see these majestic giants return to the grounds where they were once so ruthlessly extirpated.

### 1 March 2026, AM: Cierva Cove – 3.6km

Another whale to start the day...this time a curious minke greeted us as we launched into our kayaks opposite Argentina's iconic Primavera Base! There were humpbacks too and lots of penguins in the water and along the land underneath impressive cliffs.



There were icebergs, waterfalls, rocky inlets and an exciting finish to the paddle when an iceberg in the near distance collapsed, sending us all powering towards the safety of the Zodiac...with a leopard seal appearing nearby adding pace to our strokes! Once quickly on board, our attention turned to the leopard seal interacting with the towed line of kayaks! Amazing!

### 1 March 2026, PM: Hydrurga Rocks – 5km

The challenge was set for a circumnavigation of the Hydrurga Rocks, named after the genus of leopard seal. We started in a sheltered cove and made our way around the southern tip of the island where we had a slight rolling swell breaking on the odd exposed rock. After making our way into more sheltered waters we could really sit back and enjoy the chinstrap penguins and fur seals

on the rocks. We even found a few Weddell seals hauled out and looking cute. We made our way around to the landing site and checked that out before a final little trip around another island with a Weddell seal in the water before tucking back into our starting cove and finishing our circumnavigation. Just before hopping out Rob went for a little swim to cool off after a long paddle.

### 2 March 2026, AM: Walker Bay – 4km

Kayaking at Hannah Point in Walker Bay was probably our most adventurous paddle of the trip. The water was constantly moving, and we had to stay alert to stay upright as the swell pushed us as we paddled around rocky outcrops. At times it felt sporty and unpredictable, which only made things more exciting! Once we rounded into the more sheltered part of Walker Bay, everything opened up. We drifted along the



shoreline watching gentoo and chinstrap penguins going about their day waddling around, while a few elephant seals rested on the beach. It was challenging, energising, and incredibly rewarding.

### 2 March 2026, PM: Hall Peninsula, Snow Island – 2.5km

The last kayak outing...and what a stunning location and weather to finish up the expedition! The South Shetland Islands were quite the contrast to further south with there being more 'green' and exposed rock but with massive ice caps and glaciers nearby. Steep basaltic, lichen-covered cliffs on one side and rugged volcanic ridge tops on the other encircling a shallow bay and rocky beaches that were home to enormous burping elephant seals, penguins and fur seals. A short and sweet paddle before a walk onshore to stretch the legs for the final time...the perfect ending to our Antarctic kayaking adventure.







# Paddling Log

Guides: Tim Vanhoutteghem, Hodei Orueta, Gareth Wheeler, Matthew Barnes, Rob Barth

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## 25 February 2026, AM: Neko Harbour – 2km

The excitement was palpable for our first day kayaking in Antarctica. After all the briefings and preparation, I'm sure it was great to actually get out there and do it. The conditions couldn't have been any better either. Once we were on the water we started by paddling by some epic icebergs, seeing penguins porpoise past, this pretty much epitomises kayaking in Antarctica. After a few more tips and tricks on how to paddle straight we made our way around Neko Harbour looking for the elusive whale we could hear in the distance. Unfortunately it turned out to be waves hitting a cave of an iceberg, maybe...regardless it was a great start to the trip and we've got a lot more time to find the elusive whale.

## 25 February 2026, PM: Paradise Bay – 4.8km

Our second paddle of the day at Paradise Bay turned into a long and thrilling journey. The original plan was to follow the coast beneath Brown Station, but the chance to see whales quickly took over. We chased a few humpbacks, and at one point it felt like we'd never catch up. Then, as if impressed by our effort, one of the whales came right under our kayaks, showing its size. Between these incredible encounters, we admired the dramatic Antarctic landscapes, even spotting green malachite streaking through the rock.

## 27 February 2026, AM: Prospect Point, Fish Islands – 3.85km

An early start challenged us all, but it was worth the effort! Mirror calm seas, mist-covered mountain tops and some great exploratory paddling



Number of Paddlers: 8  
Total Paddle Outings: 9  
Total Distance Paddled: 25 km

Paddlers:  
Sharon White  
Roderick White  
Melanie Prebble  
Suzanne Walsh  
Christopher McLain  
Leena Srivastava

Sean Davison  
Meredith Davison

in amongst and around the low-lying Fish Islands, (Flounder, Mackerel, Perch, Plaice, Salmon, Trout and The Minnows!) Prospect Point was the site of British Base 'J' established in 1957. The base hut named Penola Hut was removed in 2004 and now only the foundations are visible. On the water we discovered a large crabeater seal basking on an ice floe, a number of curious, watchful Adélie penguins and marvelled at the dramatic peaks rising into the clouds. All in all, a most surreal and otherworldly journey!

### 27 February 2026, PM: Yalour Islands – 1.9km

Paddling around the Yalour Islands was a mix of patience and kayaking. Finding a good launch spot was tricky, so we circled in the Zodiac for a while, which gave us time to admire the incredible icebergs around us. When we finally found the right spot, the sun finally broke through the clouds, and gave us the only dry

day of the trip so far. The area was alive with birds, not just penguins, but flocks of blue-eyed shags and a surprising number of terns, maybe Antarctic, maybe Arctic, who knows! At least it gave us the opportunity to talk about them!

### 28 February 2026, AM: Recess Cove – 2.4km

A special paddle at Recess Cove on the Antarctic Peninsula in our sit-on-top kayaks. We started slowly, observing Antarctic fur seals resting along the island before rounding into calmer water.

There, we drifted quietly as a lone humpback whale did steady laps in the bay, surfacing close, moving away, and finally lifting its flukes right in front of us. A powerful moment at water level.

To finish, we pushed into the brash ice, weaving through and carving our

own track between the floating pieces, an incredible way to end the session.

### 1 March 2026, AM: Cierva Cove – 3km

Paddling in Cierva Cove was absolutely breathtaking. We tried a few minutes of silence, just to soak in the energy and sounds of Antarctica, but nature had other plans. First, a seal swam past us, then penguins porpoised around, and suddenly a curious humpback whale appeared, circling right near our kayaks as if demanding attention. We tried to paddle off to explore more, but the whales kept popping up everywhere, playful and majestic. Later, we paddled around floating ice, watching penguins on their waddling daily commute close to Primavera Station. Every moment felt impossible to forget.

### 1 March 2026, PM: Hydrurga Rocks – 4.3km

Dropped off in the south-eastern

alcove and got a look at some furry rocks that turned out to be fur seals. We immediately changed from our original plan, to go through a channel, because the tide was out, and instead wrapped round the south point and up the west side of the long and skinny main island. It turned out to be much calmer and the wind died right off. We admired more fur seals, in and out of water, and hundreds of chinstrap penguins up on land, most moulting. Snowy sheathbills, shags, and skuas were also present. We took a cut on the north point and into a cove for our first good look at a Weddell seal. Back out on the exposed east side of the island, we found another Weddell and a quiet, protected cove to sneak in close to more penguins. Our final leg gave us plenty more wildlife and a bit more swell, as we finished our route right back where we started, a leisurely circumnavigation of Hydrurga in the books.



### 2 March 2026, AM: Walker Bay – 1.2km

A lively afternoon at Walker Bay and Hannah Point in the South Shetland Islands. With waves rolling through the bay, we made a careful plan and rounded the corner into a more protected stretch of coastline, where we could paddle safely close to shore.

From the water, we observed elephant seals sprawled along the beach, while gentoo and chinstrap penguins moved between the surf and their colonies. The energy of the place was unmistakable, wild, noisy, and alive.

After returning to the Zodiacs for a short cruise before landing, we noticed birds actively feeding offshore. Approaching cautiously to understand the activity, we were met with a powerful and raw

scene: a leopard seal feeding on a penguin, shredding it into pieces beneath the circling birds. A stark and unforgettable reminder of Antarctica's untamed nature.

### 2 March 2026, PM: Hall Peninsula – 1.5km

Our last paddle!! It was a beautiful sunny day for us to finish with, the conditions were perfect too. We paddled around the very volcanic bay of Hall Peninsula with lots of wildlife to see. The Antarctic fur seal was the most curious, coming to us to inspect our kayaks and play in the water. The elephant seals were mostly hanging out and galumphing around on land with only a few watching us from the water. After seeing all of this on the water it was time to hop out and take a wander around land to see the mini South Georgia we had available.









# Dive Log

Guides: Peter Shaw, Richard Devanney

## 25 February 2026, AM: Neko Harbour – 0.5°C (32.9°F)

Neko Harbour was discovered by Belgian explorer Adrien de Gerlache and named after the early 20th-century whaling factory ship Neko that operated in these waters. It is one of the few places on the peninsula that allows visitors to step foot on the continent of Antarctica, rather than one of the many surrounding islands. Its steep amphitheatre of ice and rock, once frequented by whalers and later used by Argentina as a small refuge site, now serves as a dramatic backdrop for wildlife watching.

It was an ideal spot for our first check-out dive of the voyage. After spending some time at the surface fine-tuning weighting and getting comfortable in our equipment, the four of us descended for a 30-minute dive in relatively clear, cold water measuring 0.5 degrees Celsius (32.9°F). Conditions were ideal for a

gentle shakedown, with little wind and no current. This helped us become familiar with diving in these frigid waters and also take in our first underwater impressions of the continent.

After the dive, several of us opted for a short walk ashore to view the gentoo penguins, experiencing Neko Harbour from above the waterline on the snow slopes and rock outcrops. Then it was just a short Zodiac ride back to the ship. It was a fitting introduction to Antarctic operations: a mix of polar history, icy water, and the rare chance to both dive and walk on the Antarctic continent in a single outing.

## 25 February 2026, PM: Paradise Bay – 0.5°C (32.9°F)

Paradise Bay is a wide, scenic embayment indenting the west coast of Graham Land on the Antarctic Peninsula, renowned for its dramatic tabular icebergs, towering glaciers,

Number of Snorkellers: 4

Total Snorkel Outings: 8

Snorkellers:

Kelly Bullock-Imsland

David Imsland

Jeffrey Brown

Roger Thomas

and abundant wildlife. It was named by early 20th-century whalers for its stunning, sheltered beauty amid the ice. It has also been suggested that they named it paradise because of the ease of catching whales there. The bay hosts the derelict buildings of Almirante Brown Argentine Base (Base Almirante Brown), originally established in 1951 for scientific research; a major fire in 1984 destroyed most wooden structures. The base has mostly been rebuilt and is used in the austral summer months only.

We began the outing in front of the base and cruised along the cliffs to see imperial Antarctic shags. As we entered a smaller glaciated bay with spectacular seracs, we spotted a pair of Weddell seals hauled out on an iceberg and a large leopard seal taking a nap. We then repositioned back to the cliffs to begin getting ready to dive.

After our not-so-elegant backward rolls into the water, we descended for a 30-minute exploratory dive along the cliffs. The visibility was approximately 7 metres, revealing the underwater topography of a fairly steep wall. There was some small but beautiful benthic life to see, along with tiny krill suspended mid-water. The temperature was just above zero Celsius. Once back in the Zodiac, we were very ready to get back to the ship to warm up, capping another outing and becoming a little more familiar with the process of diving in this remote and cold part of the world.

### 27 February 2026, AM: Prospect Point – 0°C (32°F)

Prospect Point is a low headland on the Graham Coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, first charted in the mid-1930s by the British Graham Land Expedition under John Rymill. The name was suggested in 1957 by E.P. Arrowsmith, reflecting its vantage over

sea ice and surrounding islands. In 1957 it briefly hosted British Station J, a small hut named Penola, for survey and geology work, occupied until 1959. Today only the concrete foundations of that short-lived base remain, scattered amid mossy rocks and lichens, alongside occasional modern GPS markers or wildlife cameras from passing research teams.

We had an early 6:20 start to the day, launching Zodiacs in the overcast morning light to dive close to shore. With water temperature at 0°C (32°F) and several grounded icebergs scattered nearby, conditions felt quintessentially Antarctic, clear but very definitely cold.

The four of us descended for a brisk 20-minute dive, spotting vibrant sea urchins clinging to rocks and colourful sea stars on the seabed, along with delicate grey, worm-like pyrosomes lying on the seabed. Pyrosomes are bioluminescent, free-floating colonial

tunicates that form tube-shaped colonies of hundreds to thousands of tiny zooids, resembling glowing sea pickles. At depth, we managed to glimpse the grounded icebergs, while a few scattered chunks of brash ice at the surface required careful situational awareness on ascent.

We surfaced smoothly, loaded into the Zodiacs, and navigated through brash ice as we returned to the ship. Once on board, we enjoyed a well-earned breakfast while the ship began a long reposition for the afternoon outing.

### 27 February 2026, PM: Yalour Islands – 1.7°C (35°F)

The Yalour Islands are a tight cluster of low, rocky islands and skerries just northwest of Cape Tuxen on the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula in the Wilhelm Archipelago. They were first charted by the French Antarctic Expedition of 1903–05 under

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Jean-Baptiste Charcot, who named them after Lieutenant Jorge Yalour of the Argentine Navy, an officer on the corvette Uruguay that helped rescue Otto Nordenskjöld's Swedish Antarctic Expedition after its ship was crushed by ice.

The islands are often locked in ice, with only a few small cobble or shingle beaches that offer potential landing spots in good conditions. Their dark gabbro outcrops and scattered snowfields give them a stark, rugged feel, with the surrounding channels choked by brash ice and grounded bergy bits.

For the dive, we entered the water in an open area on the southeast side of the main island, surrounded by narrow channels and low rocky shores that framed the site nicely. Keeping the dive shallow, we wound our way around small grounded growlers, miniature icebergs resting on the seabed, studying their sculpted shapes and the blue-green light filtering through them. With an almost tropical 1.7°C (35°F) in the water and sunshine above, it felt like one of the more comfortable dives of the trip, and we managed a relaxed 35 minutes underwater.

After surfacing, we swapped fins for boots and were dropped off on land

to visit the Adélie penguin colony, watching the birds either commuting between the nesting areas or suffering in silence as they moulted against the same rugged backdrop first mapped over a century ago. It was a great outing, with a good mix of sunshine, dramatic scenery, and interesting shallow diving among the ice.

### 28 February 2026, AM: Recess Cove – 1°C (33.8°F)

Recess Cove is a small, sheltered cove on the eastern side of Charlotte Bay, along the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. It was surveyed by FIDS (Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey) from the vessel Norsel in April 1955 and named for the way it forms a "recess" in the coastline of the bay. The surrounding Charlotte Bay area itself was first discovered by Adrien de Gerlache's Belgian Antarctic Expedition (1897–99) and later named for the fiancée of his executive officer, Georges Leconte.

We opted not to dive in this location and instead hoped to snorkel further out in the cove, in the hope that we might find a curious whale or two. It did not take long for us to find numerous humpback whales, but they were actively feeding. The probability

of having the few resting whales that we saw come by to check us out was quite low, so we decided to continue watching them from the Zodiac. Still a fantastic encounter, and nice to have some room in the Zodiac instead of brimming with dive gear.

### 28 February 2026, PM: Guvernøren Wreck – 0°C (32°F)

Guvernøren was a Norwegian floating whaling factory ship that met her end in 1915 at Foyn Harbour, off Enterprise Island on the Antarctic Peninsula. She was working a highly successful 1914–15 whaling season and reportedly had thousands of tons of whale oil stored in her tanks when the accident happened. The story goes that, during a celebratory party on board, an overzealous crew member dancing on a table kicked over a lantern, igniting the ship and turning all that whale oil into fuel for a fast-spreading fire.

With the blaze out of control, the Captain made the decision to drive the ship aground in the sheltered confines of Foyn Harbour so that the crew could scramble onto the surrounding ice, rather than abandoning ship in open water. All crew were then picked up by other whaling ships, but the vessel

herself was gutted and left as a burned-out hulk. Today the remains of Guvernøren lie partially above the surface, her twisted steel and splintered structure as a stark reminder of the industrial whaling era.

With the water temperature hovering at around 0°C (32°F), we descended to find 20-metre visibility. This allowed a fantastic overview of the wreck before us. On the starboard side, a massive 20 m sheet of what looked like shell plating lay peeled away nearby, while whaling artefacts littered the seabed around her base. Giant isopods scuttled about, sea stars and limpets clung to the structure, and thick algae coated the submerged hull, all in sharp detail despite the short dive time.

At the stern, the large propeller and rudder were still intact and clearly visible, which is amazing considering the 111 years it has been submerged. As we made our way from the stern along the starboard side, we ascended and completed our safety stop before surfacing and climbing back aboard the Zodiacs. Having ticked off one of Antarctica's iconic wreck dives, we looked forward to what Antarctica had in store for us on the next dive.

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## 1 March 2026, AM: Cierva Cove – 0°C (32°F)

Cierva Cove lies southeast of Cape Sterneck in Hughes Bay, just south of Chavdar Peninsula on the Danco Coast of Graham Land. Shown on an Argentine chart of 1950, it was formally named in 1960 by the UK Antarctic Place Names Committee after Juan de la Cierva, Spanish designer of the autogiro (first successful rotary-wing aircraft in 1923).

The Argentine Capitán Cobbett Refuge (originally Cape Primavera naval refuge) was established on 23 January 1954 on the north shore at Cape Primavera and later expanded into Base Primavera in 1977 for summer science (biology, glaciology). The area is now an Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASP) due to its biodiversity, including gentoo and chinstrap penguins, various seabirds, and unique vegetation (moss and lichen). 93% of all the wildlife that inhabits or visits Antarctica is present at this location.

For the dive, we headed to an island at the northeastern end of the cove. Conditions were glassy calm with slight swell on the rocks. We descended along a sheer wall, drifting past a small chain of salp

riding along a slight current. Visibility was very good, which allowed us to see more of the wall on our left side. We also saw scattered sea stars and limpets on the rock, and patches of kelp clinging to the wall. A lone fish flashed by, unidentified but a rare treat down here, while the rugged granodiorite formations provided a dramatic backdrop. We stretched the dive to a comfortable 35 minutes before surfacing and heading back to the ship. Another gem of a dive in a beautiful location.

## 1 March 2026, PM: Hydrurga Rocks – 2.1°C (35.7°F)

Hydrurga Rocks are a small group of islets lying east of Two Hummock Island in the Palmer Archipelago, off the Antarctic Peninsula. Photographed by the Falkland Islands Dependencies Aerial Survey Expedition (FIDASE) in 1955–57, they were named in 1960 by the UK Antarctic Place Names Committee after *Hydrurga leptonyx*, the scientific name for the leopard seal, likely spotted in the area during surveys.

The main islet rises to about 25 m, with a tiny pebble beach on its west side for landings amid metamorphic rocks, snow patches, and guano-covered slopes hosting around 1,400

chinstrap penguin nests, blue-eyed shag colonies, and skuas. Weddell seals and fur seals also haul out here. The Weddell seals can occasionally be heard vocalising, which is unique and very memorable. Elephant seals are also occasionally found here.

We began the dive in a small cove in the middle of the island, north of the landing site. It was shallow at around 5 m (16 ft). We then made our way slowly out of the cove with instructions to keep the rocks on our right for navigation. The water temperature was 2.1°C (35.7°F), with very calm conditions once we cleared the cove. Although visibility was not quite as sharp as this morning's outing, we enjoyed following the rugged contours of the seabed comprised of metamorphic rocks.

Whilst we were at depth, curious imperial shags were attracted to our bubbles, perhaps drawn by krill stirred to the surface as a bonus snack. Sadly we did not see them as they dived slightly above us. After a relaxed 30 minutes, we surfaced and climbed back aboard the Zodiacs, wrapping up an engaging dive of this leopard seal-named location.

## 2 March 2026, AM: Walker Bay, South Shetland Islands – 2°C (35.6°F)

Walker Bay lies between John Beach and Hannah Point on the south coast of Livingston Island in the South Shetland Islands, fed by Verila Glacier. It was named in 1958 for John Walker, master of the sealing ship *John*, who visited the South Shetlands in 1820–21 and supplied George Powell with descriptions and sketches used in his 1822 chart of the islands.

The wider coast here was heavily exploited during the 19th-century sealing rush, and today Hannah Point and the beaches around Walker Bay are known for dense penguin and seal activity, including elephant and fur seals later in the season.

Conditions in Walker Bay were swelly and a little choppy at the surface, and underwater visibility was around 5 metres, giving a slightly muted but atmospheric feel to the dive. After a short briefing from our guides, we rolled into the water and descended to around 10 m (33 ft). We followed the gently sloping rocky seabed and saw lots of seagrass and patches of kelp anchored between boulders, hinting at the productivity of this relatively shallow coastal environment.

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After exploring for the allotted time, we surfaced and headed ashore, swapping regulators for boots to meet the wildlife that shares these waters. We walked down the beach to see some huge elephant seals hauled out in the same location that 19th-century sealers once worked along this historic stretch of coast. Slightly stronger conditions for our penultimate dive, but still an interesting place to explore underwater.

### 2 March 2026, PM: Hall Peninsula, South Shetland Islands – 3.5°C (38.3°F)

Hall Peninsula is a small, mostly ice-free peninsula on the southeast coast of Snow Island in the South Shetland Islands. It projects into the Bransfield Strait between the broader systems of Livingston and Deception Islands, forming part of the outer volcanic arc that fringes the Antarctic Peninsula. The name appears in modern mapping and scientific literature rather than in heroic-age expedition narratives, reflecting later cartographic work rather than a dramatic historical event.

Geologically, Snow Island (and thus Hall Peninsula) sits within the magmatic arc created by long-lived subduction along the edge of the Antarctic Peninsula, where Jurassic–Cenozoic igneous rocks and associated sediments record a history of volcanism, intrusion, and later glacial erosion. Marine terraces and raised beaches around the peninsula preserve fossils and reworked material, including fossil wood in some sites on Snow Island, showing that this now polar environment once supported very different, vegetated ecosystems before Antarctica glaciated.

We dived at the entrance of the bay near the landing site. The water temperature was 3.5°C (38.3°F), and once we descended, the visibility was initially around 5 m (16 ft). As we headed further out into deeper water, the water turned increasingly milky, caused by glacial runoff. In hindsight, we might have had clearer conditions going the other way, but we still enjoyed our brief exploration, reaching a maximum depth of 10 m (33 ft) for a 10-minute dive.

After the dive, we went ashore and spent about an hour watching a group of huge elephant seals hauled out on the beach, with chinstrap and gentoo penguins moving back and forth between the colony and the shoreline. Eventually, it was time to head back to the ship to begin breaking down our kit and rinsing the Antarctic salt off so everything could dry as we cross the Drake Passage. Nine dives in five operational days is excellent going for Antarctica, and the trip delivered a fantastic mix of sites, varied wildlife, changing topography, icebergs and brash ice, all in a wide range of conditions. All in all it was an incredible experience, providing a lifetime of memories with some good stories thrown in.

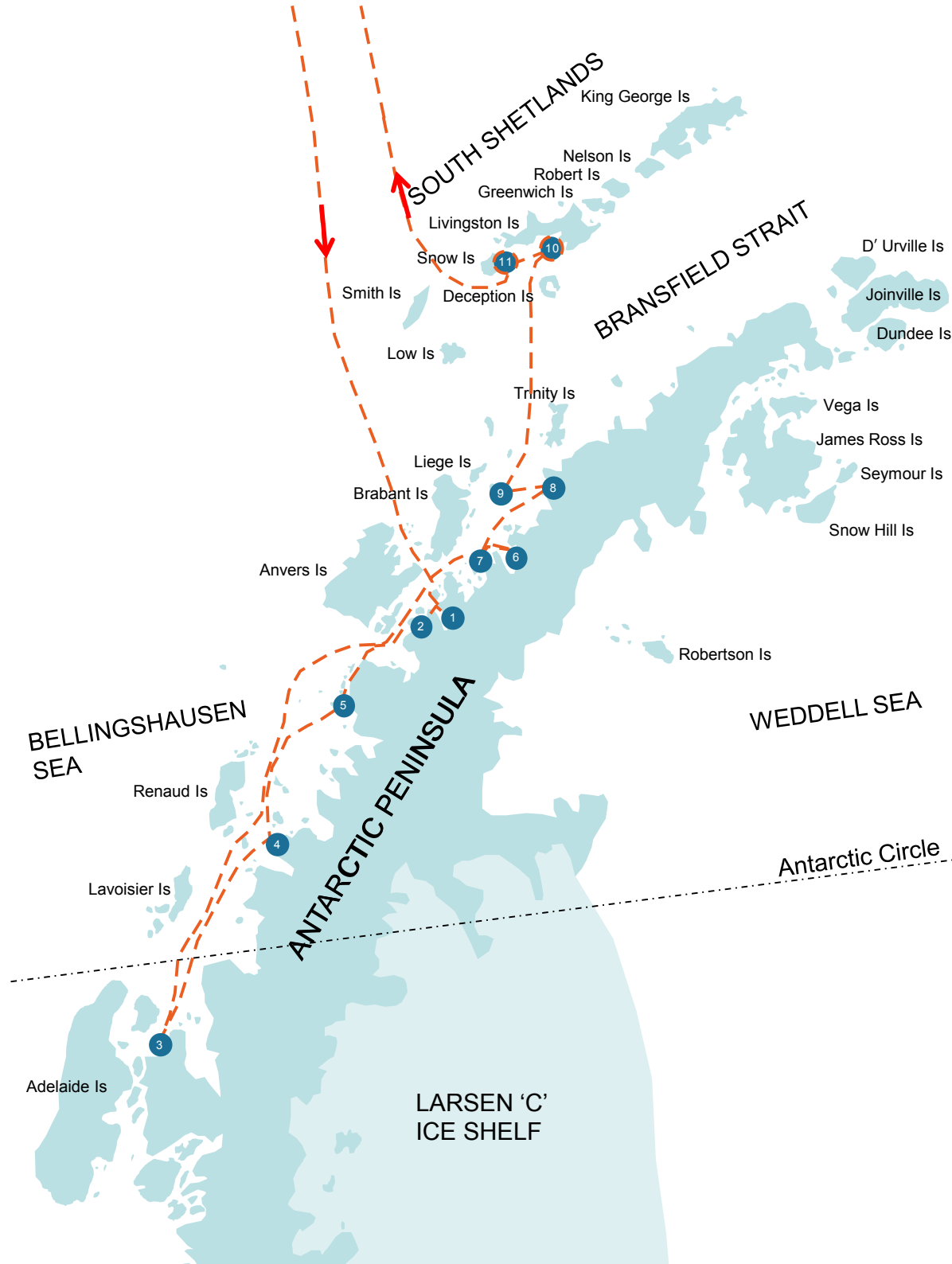


# Map

1. Neko Harbour
2. Paradise Bay
3. Salmon Cove
4. Prospect Point
5. Yalour Islands
6. Recess Cove
7. Foyen Harbour
8. Cierva Cove
9. Hydrurga Rocks
10. Walker Bay
11. Hall Peninsula

## Across the Antarctic Circle

22 February – 5 March 2026





# Our Expeditioners

Jane Alexander	Debra Deback	Barry Holledge	Rachelle Malaney	Jennifer Schwarz	Kenneth Ventura
Jennifer Balanky	Charles Dobson	Linda Holledge	Patrick Mc Laughlin	Donald Sell	Leslie Wahlgren
Louise Bengard	Valda Dobson	Michael Hutcherson	Christopher McLain	Jody Shands	Suzanne Walsh
Thomas Bengard	Grace Douetil	Suzanne Hutcherson	Maria Elena Zubeldia Medellin	Cindy Shapiro	Irene Waring
Shafeeq Asghar Bhatti	Wanda Dufrene	David Imsland	Karen Middleton	Soniya Sharma	Terry Ann Watson
Amar Pratap Bhullar	Gerald Enright	Barry Jackson	Don Nathan	Joe Shebuski	Martha Weisberg
Kelsey Bradley	Leanne Enright	Susan James	Matthew Naylor	Benjamin Soibelzon	Jennifer Werstler
Jeffrey Brown	Sylvia Esparza	Karanbir Kaur	Stephanie Naylor	Leopoldo Soibelzon	Ernst Weyermann
Helen Bryon	Deborah Goucher	Jane Kearney	David Norsworthy	Aman Srivastava	Verena Weyermann
Kelly Bullock-Imsland	James Goucher	Sandra Kipp	Tracy Norsworthy	Ekta Srivastava	Roderick White
Ju-Chen Chang	Margaret Gowan	Timothy Kipp	Bjoern Olsen	Leena Srivastava	Sharon White
Mason Cole	David Habersberger	Stephen Klasen	Julie Olson	John Steinbeck	
Rodney Dahl	Pamela Habersberger	Suzanne Klasen	Gwendolyn Owen	David Sunday	
Susan Dahl	Kathy Haesevoets	Amanda Klein	Roger Owen	Loreen Sunday	
Lisa Danielson	Emma Healey	Anthony Koziol	Wendy Parker	Brad Swezey	
Euryl Davies	Anita Helling	Nadine Lemmens	Sima Perkins	Roger Thomas	
Sarah Davies	Michael Helling	Eileen Lim	Kylie Piper	Michael Torbert	
Meredith Davison	Jennifer Hincks	Weng Lim	Melanie Prebble	Rose Trigg	
Sean Davison	James Hockin	Pin-Hsiu Lin	Nathalie Riendeau	William Trigg III	
Douglas Deback	Shirley Hockin	Anahi Mainetti		Victoria Tsai	

## Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Isabelle Howells

Assistant Expedition Leader: Tamsin Both

Onboard Expedition Manager: Nicole Genoud

Marine Biologist/Citizen Science Coordinator: Madi Lacy

Historian: Hannah Johns

Geologist / Glaciologist: Melina Pelzmajer

Ornithologist: Kyle Smith

Photography Guide: Stas Zakharov

Medic: Solvi Jensen

Zodiac Manager: Serghei Hincu

Shop Manager: Ari Benzo

Lead Kayak Guide: Tim Vanhoutteghem

Senior Kayak Guide: Hodei Orueta

Kayak Guide: Robin Barth

Senior Kayak Guide: Matt Barnes

Kayak Guide: Gareth Wheeler

Lead Snorkel Guide: Edwin Sargeant

Snorkel Guide: Katia Benini

Dive Team Leader: Pete Shaw

SIV Guide: Jacky Yu

## Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Oleg Kapko

Chief Officer: Mikhail Levkin

Safety Officer: Andrey Balandin

Bosun: Francis Marvin Linga

Ship Doctor: Tukaram Sawant

Chief Engineer: Dimitas Vasilev

First Engineer: Iurri Peretiaka

IT Officer: Razvan Malciu

Hotel Director: Oliver Sevilla

F&B Service Manager: German Orlando Cayasso Wilson

Chief Purser: Pia Blanca Bangug

Executive Chef: Ronwaldo Reyes

Head Waiter: Juan Carlos Mejia

Hotel Controller: Cheryl Ann Dela Torre

Receptionist: Maria Nympha Abuda

Receptionist: Liberty Joy Acelar

Head Stateroom Attendant: Roniel Garcia

AB Seaman: Joel Noble

AB Seaman: Roberto Ixtan Mejia

AB Seaman: Junar Gorecho

AB Seaman: Noel Refugia

AB Seaman: Jay Belaguin

AB Seaman: Khenette Versoza

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Snorkel Guides: Edwin Sargeant





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